

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 AID-05 FEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 233

INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, TS

SUBJ: TUNISIAN REACTION TO KISSINGER PROPOSALS AT 7TH SPECIAL
SESSION

REF: TUNIS 5528

1. FOLLOWING INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH FOMMIN CHATTI
(REFTEL), AMBASSADOR CALLED ON SECSTATE KOOLI TO REVIEW
US PROPOSALS TO 7TH SPECIAL SESSION IN DETAIL AND TO
EMPHASIZE NEED FOR COOPERATION TO REPLACE ATMOSPHERE OF
CONFRONTATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT
DIALOGUE. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOT'S LONG
RECORD OF ENCOURAGING DIALOGUE AND SPECIFICALLY NOTED POSITIVE
TONE OF FON MIN CHATTI'S SPEECH TO SPECIAL SESSION.
AMBASSADOR LEFT FULL TEXT OF SPEECH IN FRENCH AS WELL AS
EMBASSY-PREPARED AIDE MEMOIRE HIGHLIGHTING NEW PROPOSALS.
KOOLI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESENTATION AND
INDICATED GOT WOULD STUDY US PROPOSAL.

2. TUNISIAN PRESS HAS LIMITED ITSELF PRIMARILY TO
STRAIGHT REPORTING OF KISSINGER SPEECH, CATEGORIZING
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CONCILIATORY AND COOPERATIVE TONE OF SPEECH AS DEPARTURE

FROM PAST US APPROACH TO LDC CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS.
PRESS REPORTS ALSO NOTED THAT PROPOSALS DID NOT DEAL
WITH QUESTION OF INDEXATION, COMMENTING THAT THIS WAS OF
GREAT CONCERN TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND WAS KEY ELEMENT
OF G-77 PROPOSAL. ONE EDITORIAL QUESTIONED WHETHER US
"INTRANSIGENCE" ON INDEXATION WOULD BE STUMBLING BLOCK
TO FRUITFUL DIALOGUE. AL-AMAL, ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY OF
DESTOURIAN PARTY, HOWEVER, CARRIED USIS RELEASE ON SPEECH
HIGHLIGHTING POSITIVE
ASPECTS OF US PROPOSALS. NO SENIOR GOT OFFICIAL HAS
MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SPEECH OTHER THAN PASSING
REFERENCE IN PRESS INTERVIEW BY FON MIN CHATTI REJECTING
ALLEGED KISSINGER VIEW THAT OIL PRICE HIKE WAS PRINCIPAL
CAUSE OF CURRENT DESPERATE PLIGHT OF POOREST COUNTRIES.

3. ABSENCE OF US OBJECTION TO CONSENSUS RESOLUTION (ALBEIT
WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS) WAS NOTED FAVORABLY IN TUNISIAN PRESS
AS FURTHER SIGN OF US WILL TO PERSIST IN ITS NEW ATTITUDE
OF COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: GOT, AS RAW MATERIAL EXPORTER, SUPPORTS
VIRTUALLY ALL OF G-77 PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY SCHEME TO
STABILIZE REAL EXPORT INCOME THROUGH PRICE INDEXATION.
AS PETROLEUM EXPORTER (ALTHOUGH NOT MEMBER OF OPEC) GOT
GAINS FROM NEW HIGHER PETROLEUM PRICES AND DOES NOT WISH
TO SEE BLAME FOR WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PINNED ON OIL PRICE
HIKE. GOT IS CONCERNED THAT EMPHASIS BY US AND OTHER
DC'S ON NEED TO AID POOREST COUNTRIES WILL RESULT IN
LESS AID TO TUNISIA AT TIME WHEN GOT BELIEVES IT NEEDS
CONTINUED AID IN ORDER TO REACH "TAKEOFF". (FOR EXAMPLE,
HOLLAND, CANADA AND SWEDEN ARE PHASING OUT THEIR AID
PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA OVER NEXT 3-4 YEARS IN FAVOR OF
MSA'S.) OVERALL IMPACT, THEREFORE, OF US PROPOSALS IN
KISSINGER SPEECH, FROM GOT VIEWPOINT, IS THAT THEY
IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE BUT DO NOT
INCLUDE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS
IMPORTANT TO TUNISIA (I.E., INDEXATION, THIRD-WINDOW,
INCREASED AID TO BETTER-OFF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES).
GOT CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT COOPERATION
AND DIALOGUE, APPLAUD US WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE MORE
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FULLY IN DIALOGUE, BUT NOT DIVERGE SUBSTANTIALLY FROM
G-77 POSITION ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.
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